

REMARKS

Claim 1 is objected to because of informality.

Claims 3-7 and 23 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 112, first paragraph, as failing to comply with the written description requirement.

Claims 1 and 8-11 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 102(b) as being anticipated by *Hosozawa et al US 5816894*.

Claims 1, 3-7, 10-12 and 16-18 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable over *Nigon et al US 6549125* in view of *Nakada JP-11308738*.

Claims 13-15 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable over *Nigon et al* and *Nakada* as applied to claim 1, and further in view of *Nagatsuma US 4316374*.

Claims 19-22 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable over *Nigon et al* and *Nakada* as applied to claim 1, and further in view of *Ballyns US 5699041*.

Claim 23 is rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable over *Nigon et al* and *Nakada* and *Ballyns*.

Claim 2 is allowable.

Claims 3, 16, 17, 19, and 21 have been rewritten to depend on claim 2, and are therefore now allowable. Claims 18, 20, and 22 all depend on allowable claims, and therefore are also now allowable.

Claims 1, 4-15, and 23 have been canceled.

CONCLUSION

Applicant asserts that all of the Examiner's objections have been obviated, and therefore now respectfully requests withdrawal of the objections and allowance of the application.

PETITION FOR AN EXTENSION OF THE TERM

Applicant hereby petitions for a one-month extension of the term for reply from 14 July 2009 to 14 August 2009. Submitted herewith is a check for \$130 to cover the cost of the extension. Any deficiency or overpayment should be charged or credited to Deposit Account Number 04-2219, referencing our Docket Number 14234.

Respectfully submitted,

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